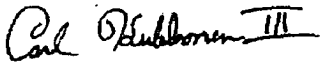
DISCUSSION

Applicant has canceled original claims 6-10 in response to the restriction requirement.

In an effort to expedite allowance of claims within the current application, in response to the 35 USC § 112 objections, claims 1 and 2 have been amended to clarify that the signal processing is based on interferometry. Claim 4 has been canceled. New claim 21 is an apparatus claim of similar scope to that of claim 1. New claims 22 to 26 are of similar scope to claims 11 to 15. In addition, Applicant has included terminal disclaimers for U.S. Pat. Nos. 6,142,681, 6,671,625, and 6,780,589 and the associated fees.

Based on the above, Applicant believes that the claims as amended put the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned if there are any matters which may be addressed telephonically or via e-mail.

Respectfully submitted,



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November 3, 2004

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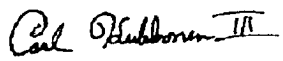
I certify that the foregoing was sent by facsimile on the date above to 703.872.9306.



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